

Department of the Interior
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge Complex
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Refuge Special Event

For Immediate Release

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Spring Songbirds Arriving at Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge

Birdwatchers Invited to Participate in Guided Bird Walks

The turtles are basking, the ducks are courting, and the sounds of migratory songbirds are filling the air. Spring has arrived at Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge and so has a flurry of songbirds stopping to rest, refuel, or to stay a while to nest and fledge their young. Yellow warblers, common yellowthroats, violet-green swallows, and purple martins are just a few of the winged-gems you are likely to see while on refuge trails this time of year. Birdwatchers, both budding and experienced, are invited to come out and get a closer look and experience this nature show created by the changing of the seasons.

Join refuge volunteer and avid birder Ron Escano on refuge trails for a refuge birding excursion and learn why habitat areas such as Ridgefield NWR are vital to the survival of migrating songbirds. Bring your binoculars, good walking shoes, water, and bug repellent.

Guided Bird Walks Schedule:

Saturday, April 23 - Carty Unit - Oaks to Wetlands Trail

Sunday, May 1, - River S Unit - Kiwa Trail

Saturday, May 7, - Carty Unit - Oaks to Wetlands Trail

Tuesday, May 10 - River S Unit - Kiwa Trail

Each walk begins at 8:00 a.m. and ends around 10:00 a.m. The guided walk at the Carty Unit - Oaks to Wetlands Trail will meet at the parking lot one mile north of the intersection of Pioneer Street and Main Avenue in downtown Ridgefield. Walks at the River S Unit - Kiwa Trail will meet at the trail parking lot off of the auto tour route located half a mile south of the intersection of Pioneer Street and 9th Avenue in downtown Ridgefield. The guided walks are free and open to the public, however space is limited and registration is required. To register and for directions, please contact Yvette Donovan at (360) 887-4106, or e-mail: Yvette_Donovan@fws.gov.

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The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 95-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System, which encompasses 545 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. It also operates 69 national fish hatcheries, 64 fishery resources offices and 81 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign and Native American tribal governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Assistance program, which distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies.